

**Growth Partnership Board Meeting
18th November 2009
East Cambridgeshire District Council Chamber, The Grange, Ely
1400-1600**

BOARD MEMBERS:

Name	Authority
Alex Plant	Cambridgeshire Horizons
John Onslow	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Peter Studdert	Director of Joint Planning
Simon Payne	Cambridge City Council
Liz Bisset	Cambridge City Council
Mike Hosking	Cambridgeshire County Council
Graham Hughes	Cambridgeshire County Council
Brian Smith	Cambridgeshire County Council
Steve Hampson	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Jo Mills	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Malcolm Sharp	Huntingdonshire District Council
Steve Plant	Huntingdonshire District Council
David Archer	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Giles Hughes	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Gary Garford	Fenland District Council

APOLOGIES:

Brian Smith	Cambridgeshire County Council
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ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Name	
Sheryl French	Cambridgeshire Horizons
Minutes	
Gill Barker	Cambridgeshire Horizons

Actions

1. Welcome and Apologies

AP welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies as above.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd September, 2009 and matters arising.

It was reported that apologies should have been received from LB. Noting that amendment, the Minutes were agreed.

Action Points:

Item3 – Integrated Development Programme (IDP) – AP queried what stage this document was at regarding obtaining each authority's endorsement:

CCC – 24th November to Cabinet, with positive recommendation;

Hunts DC – Positive at Scrutiny, onward to Cabinet tomorrow;

East Cambs DC – Endorsement at Committee last week;

Fenland – Minor tweaks regarding infrastructure required but should then be endorsed. Noted that Fenland were willing to join with Hunts for the 'pilot' of VRT/CIL which relied on the IDP as its evidence base;

City – Discussions ongoing, should come to Scrutiny in December;

AP noted that the timetable for this document was for it to have been through each local authority's own processes in time for Horizons Main Board to consider approval on 9th December.

Item 4 – Strategic Risk Register (SRR) – It was noted that this document now goes to the Audit & Risk Committee for scrutiny each quarter, prior to the Main Board.

Item 6 – HGF Proposed Cut to Funding – awaiting decision post consultation.

Matters Arising:

Item 8e - Delivering Major Cultural Facilities – Queried whether this work could benefit from being part of ongoing work through Making Cambridgeshire Count?

3. Programme and Key Issues

Trumpington Meadows – Agreement with Grosvenor USS now signed, based on HGF 'loan' arrangement. PS leading the Project Team. HGF loan is 're-cyclable' as money will return in the long term.

Clay Farm – Appeal now taken place, decision awaited, expected by March 2010. PS explained the basis of CPL's appeal based on viability of the site and ability to provide Affordable Housing (AH). CPL were seeking a reduction of AH on Phase 1 from 40% to 16.5%, with phase by phase viability assessments thereafter. Appeal outcome has nationwide ramifications for AH.

Cambridge North West – NIAB application – on hold as they do not wish to commit to 40% AH, waiting for the result of the CF appeal. Cambridge University currently organising seminars, workshops etc., for their part of the development. There is an issue around the definition of 'key worker housing'. They are working toward Sustainable Code level 5 housing. Task groups set up to push this forward with Sheryl French leading on Sustainability.

Cambridge East – Nothing further to report at this time, awaiting a statement from Marshall.

Huntingdon Town Centre Regeneration – Planning permission granted, project management now being set up. Delivery of the Link Road now being passed to CCC.

St Neots – East of Railway – stalled at the moment, HDC to take work forward soon.

For information – Alconbury site purchased by two individuals at £27m.

MOD sold freehold. Buyers looking at long term investment.

Cambourne – Development continues. Potential for 950 further homes being investigated.

Orchard Park – Development continues. K1 site, for self build, now gathering momentum.

Northstowe – Uttons Drove water drainage system will now proceed, utilising HGF monies on a 'loan' arrangement. This project integrated with Northstowe development.

Ely Master Plan – Consultation now closed. PS noted that the Ely Master Plan document was an extremely good document and should be used as a model for others. Northern expansion infrastructure plan on track for Committee in Feb 2010. Possibility for expansion at Soham for 4k houses also being considered, on longer timeframe than for Ely. Workstreams on this include feasibility, freight issues and talks with Network Rail regarding potential for a station.

Wisbech – Further to loss of funding for COWA, Fenland working hard with organisations such as Horizons, GO East to source alternatives.

Wisbech – Nene project – KS1 bid unsuccessful, bid for KS2 now in but criteria for funding not positive. Noted that letter regarding disappointment for Cambridgeshire regarding KS1 had been sent to HCA. Reported that HCA are seeking input from CABA on KS2 bids.

AP and LB are to meet with HCA in December to kick off 'single conversation'. Mooted that they may wish to consider Cambridgeshire and Peterborough together, especially in relation to land assets.

CB1 – Railway Station area – Planning Committee have supported revised plan and S106 agreement. ARU will now bring forward these units. This scheme has matched CIF funding.

Cambridge Biomedical Park now has outline planning permission. This will be major new employer in Southern Fringe area and strengthens case for moving homes forward quickly on Southern Fringe.

Quality of Life – Water Cycle Strategy work continuing.

Quality Charter being re-launched, with a steering group meeting regularly to work on this. It does not currently have a Fenland representative. The Training Programme for the Quality Charter is currently being restructured with a more bespoke approach.

GG

Quality Panel – PS and JO currently organising the set up of this Panel, and will be seeking a member from each authority for the Selection and Appointment Committee. Can nominees be considered?

All

4. **Cambridgeshire Together Report**

JO noted that Horizons Main Board is responsible for the Growth theme. To investigate the Cultural issues, the Cambridgeshire Together (CT) Board has set up a Culture Task group. Important issue currently was Gypsies and Travellers. Targets, such as NI 154 and 155 are currently being re-negotiated. In the meantime there are no 'red flags' emerging for Cambs from the CAA process.

It was queried whether all present received copies of the papers for CT and it was noted affirmatively. Cllr Bard was the Horizons Board representative on CT, and prior to each meeting he is briefed on any special issues that arise at the meeting.

It was noted that current Homelessness comments within the draft CAA have been challenged by the City Council within the consultation time. It was felt that the comments were inaccurate in light of the work currently being undertaken in this field.

Agreed:

AP/JO

The City Council's concerns regarding Homelessness figures to be noted at the next CT Board meeting.

5. HGF Capital Budget

JO's report had been circulated. He noted that the Founder Members meeting, held in September had been extremely useful, in particular with regard to how to deal with the government's proposal for a £6m cut to 2010/11 funding from this budget.

He reiterated the need for all to be prepared should this cut be pushed through.

Discussion then took place around the report, noting Appx A – copy of letter to CLG regarding the proposed cut to funding, and Appx B – a programme summary. It was also noted that the original programme had already been overprofiled by 10%.

Main Points:

Re-affirmation of opposition to the proposal to cut funding by £6m;

Issuing of Funding Agreements for projects to go ahead following Main Board meeting;

Consider Flexible Fund in light of Clay Farm Appeal;

Consider the impact of cuts on 2010/11 expenditure;

Andrew Lansley MP was still seeking a meeting for MP's with Minister, John Healey, to put Cambridgeshire's case;

Government decision on possible cuts expected mid December;

Noted that should full £6m cut be made, all projects will be subject to further review and scrutiny;

Clay Farm appeal decision not to be known until Feb/Mar 2010;

Noted that some Green Infrastructure schemes have match funding and therefore should continue, e.g. Wicken Fen and St Neots Phase 2;

Noted that the March Scheme for up to £2.9m would be lower priority assuming cut is confirmed, but a smaller scheme of £500k could be considered if funding is available;

Requirement for a clear mandate from Main Board to 'crack on' with schemes, but outlining the broad principles of the programme going forward;

Other priority projects include Wisbech, Huntingdon, Ely Country Park and The Hive, with other priority schemes to start later including Cambridge Gateway;

Requirement for a mechanism to look at each scheme, position regards progress, forecast position as at March 2010 and March 2011, with a commentary to show scale back for cuts and/or overprofile. This should come to the Main Board meeting;

Concern expressed regarding HGF for the future. Noted that meetings were already being had with Ministers and Shadow Ministers to ensure recognition of the importance of growth agenda in Cambridgeshire.

Agreed:

Additional GPB meeting to be set up for January 2010, specifically to examine effects of government decision on HGF Capital Programme.

Closed Session item to be suggested for Main Board - Future support for Growth – Lobbying strategy.

AII/GDB

GDB

6. HGF Revenue Budget

SF's report had been circulated previously. Progress was noted.

Discussion:

Query regarding LCDI for ST Neots. Noted that £50K in budget;
Potential for any underspend, no matter how small, to be capitalised;
Forecasting on outturn spend to be carried out, to include 2010/11 spend,
for additional January meeting.

SF

7. Investment Package

AP noted that the IDP/CIL had been discussed under Item 2.
Results of TIF 'pilot' scheme should be known from pre-budget report in early December.
Local Asset Backed Vehicle (LABV) – work has been carried out, with Eversheds and King Sturge, in the past. At that time the economic climate was such that this type of financing was deemed difficult. Making Cambridgeshire Count (MCC) workstreams appear to indicate this could now be looked at afresh.
AP has had discussions on this with CLG/Treasury, and with colleagues at NHS and CRC. An idea at the moment, but with support Degree of interest from wider partners will become clearer at the MCC World Café events in December.

8 Carbon Offset Mechanism

SF's report had been circulated which set out the aims and objectives for this project, agreed by Main Board in September. There were three main elements: 1) Government definition of Zero Carbon – 70% regulated on site and 30% in a 'pot'; 2) Carbon appraisal of the LTDP; 3) Emerging funding opportunities through 'Allowable Solutions', CIL etc.;
Overall aim to provide Cambridgeshire public sector partners with strategic overview of available options for setting up a Carbon Offset Fund;
A cross public sector agreement on aims and objectives, including NHS;
Deliver a Project Plan to deliver a Carbon Offset Fund(s) for Cambridgeshire - Project cost - £30K;
Steer required on governance arrangements for this work;

Discussion:

Noted that officers from other local authorities have had input;
Carbon reduction for existing buildings will be challenging;
Can include private and public sector;
Report to show mechanisms and principles first to make debate easier;
Consultants to be provided with steer, particularly on political issues, perhaps through Quality Charter. Task Group working on this;
preferable that Cambridgeshire Together is engaged and that the scheme is kept as localised as possible;

SF

Agreed:

The aims and objectives as set out in the report were recommended for approval to Main Board;
Governance of the project to be carried out by this meeting, with a link through to CT and the Environment Sustainability Partnership.

Agenda

9. Review Draft Agenda for Main Board

Draft agenda had been circulated.
HGF Revenue to be added to Agenda.

GDB

10. Forward Planner – Meeting dates

This was noted. Additional meeting in January 2010 to be added.

11. Any other Business

JO noted that within MCC – further workstream for Enquiry 6 – Sessions on Resources were being carried out by SOB.

The meeting closed at 1640.

The next scheduled meeting is set for 3rd March 2010, 1000 am at the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall.

Additional meeting in January, date and venue to be confirmed.

GDB